



NSBE (SA)

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS OF SOUTH AFRICA "BRIDGING THE ENGINEERING SKILLS GAP"

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NSBE HEAD OF BUSINESS FORUM
NEWSFLASH

TO: PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA HOUSES
FROM: TUMI TSEHLO
SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF TRANSNET SOC Ltd GCEO & TFR CE
DATE: 05 OCTOBER 2023

Resignation of Transnet SOC Ltd GCE & Freight Rail Divisional CE

The National Society of Black Engineers of South Africa (NSBE), the premier representative body for black engineering professionals nationwide, issues this press statement to express our sincere sentiments following the resignation of Ms. Portia Derby (GCEO) & Ms. Sizakele Mzimela (TFR CE).

While transitions within any organization can be challenging, it is imperative to recognize and address the impact that leadership has on its employees, stakeholders, and the industry as a whole. During the leadership tenure of Ms. Derby & Ms. Mzimela, it became clear that there were serious fundamental shortcomings in their leadership approach. As representatives of the black engineering community, we have faced numerous instances where their actions revealed a lack of understanding, respect, and appreciation for the engineering profession. Their style of leadership was marked by a regrettable display of arrogance, and an outright lack of respect towards experienced black engineers and their esteemed profession. This approach not only hindered the growth and progress of Transnet SOC Ltd and the country at large, but also failed to recognize the pivotal role that engineers play in the freight logistics industry.

As an organization, we are deliberate in promoting the elevation and inclusion of black executives into positions of influence. In particular, we are sensitive to the disadvantage that black women in leadership experience. However, we will call out instances of poor leadership when we observe it.

President: Mdu Mlaba;

National Executive Committee: Lwazi Goqwana: Deputy President; Freddy Mugeru: Treasurer; Chrizelle Isaacs: General Secretary; Tumi Tsehlo: Head of NSBE Commercial; Khulani Msane; Lungi Maminza; Bongumusa Thusi; Thato Selebogo; Simphiwe Mbanga;

To successfully run an engineering intensive operation like Transnet, it is important for senior executives to have a basic understanding and appreciation that engineering professionals invest their time, skills, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of the organization they serve. They are the driving force behind innovation, operational efficiency, solving complex challenges, and the sustainable growth of the company. Ms Derby and Ms Mzimela failed to demonstrate this understanding.

Our organization firmly believes in the power of unity, collaboration, and mutual respect. We are confident and optimistic that through this change in leadership, Transnet SOC Ltd can forge a new path, rebuilding damaged relationships with its customers and enhancing its reputation within the freight logistics industry. We welcome the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and support Transnet's efforts in reshaping its approach to leadership and upholding the highest standard of professionalism.

Therefore, we welcome the resignation of Ms. Derby & Ms. Mzimela as a significant opportunity for revitalization and positive change within Transnet SOC Ltd.

ENDS

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